

nied that there was any thing in it about paupers. He disclaimed any hostility to the District; but insisted that there was no law providing for the support of lunatics in this District by Congress.

Mr. BRIGGS was understood, in reply to the constitutional question raised by Mr. Hand, to argue that the same principle upon which Congress could make appropriations for the support of criminals would justify, also, the appropriation for the confinement of lunatics. The most degraded criminal might, according to the argument of the gentleman from New York, be provided with food and raiment; but the moment the question was whether relief should be extended to those unfortunate beings who had been deprived of their reason, the Constitution of the United States interposed, and the door was to be shut against them. In making an urgent appeal to the committee to pass this bill, Mr. B. alluded to the wretched condition of these lunatics, and especially the case of a female in one of the apartments of the jail.

Mr. MONROE also hoped the bill would pass. If he had ever entertained any doubts as to the propriety and justice of the law, those doubts would have been put to flight after hearing the argument which his Democratic friend from New York (Mr. Hand) had, no doubt with the best intentions, submitted. He (Mr. M.) was satisfied that the bill ought to pass. He believed that no man among his own constituents, or the constituents of the committee (Mr. Hand,) would vote against it, if he understood it.

Mr. HUBBARD opposed the bill on a principle which he thought, notwithstanding all that had been said, gentlemen had dodged. In his State, they supported their paupers by direct taxation; and how could they be called upon not only to support their own paupers, but those of the District of Columbia? He referred to the immense burden which this thing would throw upon Congress, when the population of the city should swell up to two or three hundred thousand; but it was to the principle that he was opposed. The funds of the Union ought not to be appropriated to carry on the police system of this District; the District ought to support its charities of all descriptions; and the people of Alabama had just as much right to make this request as the people of this District.

Mr. H. contended that the people here could not be too poor to support their own paupers; and, in carrying out his argument, spoke of the vast amounts of money which were spent in the District in various ways through the contingent funds of the two Houses, through the public offices, &c. He believed that Congress had no more power in legislation here than it had over the Territories.

Mr. ALFORD in reply to the constitutional objections taken by Mr. Hand and Mr. Hubbard, said that, for his own part, he held the Bible to be the highest constitutional authority which a Christian nation could know. He believed, as he was taught by the doctrine inculcated by our Lord and Saviour, that the greatest of all virtues was charity; and when he heard constitutional law urged against the supreme law of Heaven itself, and against the principles of charity which that law enjoined, he, as a Christian, was astonished. It seemed to him that not only did the common principles of charity recommend this bill to the adoption of the committee, but that the persons to whom it had reference were peculiarly the proper objects of their solicitude. If he was legislating in Georgia, he would not hesitate for a moment to make provision for these persons within the jurisdiction of his own State; and he would not hesitate here, where Congress had exclusive power to legislate, and when charity, religion, and the wants of those who were suffering, all called upon him to act. He hoped the bill would pass without a dissenting voice. If the gentleman from Alabama and the gentleman from New York, had proper feelings, and would pay a visit to the jail here, their conscientious scruples would all melt away before the sight which would there present itself. He hoped the debate would close here, and that the House, as a set of Christians ought to do, would go ahead.

The committee then rose and reported the bill with the two amendments, they were concurred in, and the bill was ordered to a third reading.

It was then read the third time, and the question on its passage was taken by yeas and nays, and decided as follows:

YEAS—Messrs. Adams, Alford, Judson Allen, J. W. Allen, Andrews, Baker, Barnard, Boardman, Bond, Brewster, Briggs, Brown, Buchanan, H. Butler, Wm. O. Butler, Calhoun, William B. Campbell, Carr, Carroll, Carter, Casey, Chittenden, Cranston, Curtis, Cushing, Daves, Edward Davies, John W. Davis, G. Davis, Dawson, Deberry, Dellet, Dove, Graves, Edwards, Ely, Everett, Fillmore, Fiske, C. Hopkins, Galbraith, Goggin, Goode, Graham, Granger, Griggs, Green, Grinnell, John Hastings, Henry, Hill, J. A. Hoffman, Holmes, Hook, Hunt, James, Chas. Johnson, W. C. Johnson, Kemble, Kempshall, King, Lewis, Linn, Low, Lyndon, M. Mallory, E. Mallory, Marvin, Mason, Monroe, Morgan, Morrow, Osborne, Paken, Parmenter, Peck, Pope, Randall, Rariden, Rayner, Reed, Ridgway, Edward Rogers, Russell, Safford, Sergeant, Slade, John Smith, Truman Smith, Stanley, Stuart, Sumner, Sweeney, T. J. Telford, P. F. Thomas, W. Thompson, Tilgham, Toland, Triplett, Trumbull, Underwood, Warren, Weller, John White, T. W. Williams, L. Williams, J. L. Williams, Christopher H. Williams, Winthrop, Wm. Wood—110.

NAYS—Messrs. Atherton, Banks, Black, Blackwell, Aaron V. Brown, A. G. Brown, Burke, Clifford, Coles, Connor, Crab, Cray, Cross, John D. Davis, Dunn, Duncan, Earl, Estlin, Garland, Griffin, Hand, Hawes, H. H. Hill, C. C. Hopkins, J. B. Hubbard, Jameson, C. Johnson, Keim, Kile, Lewis, Lucas, McClellan, McCulloch, Medill, Montoya, S. W. Morris, Parrish, Parris, Paynter, Prentiss, Reynolds, J. Rogers, Ryal, Shaw, Shepard, Stenrod, Strong, Swearingen, Taylor, Jacob Thompson, J. B. Thompson, Turner, Waterson, Wick, Jared Williams, H. Williams, Worthington—59.

So the bill was passed.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS.

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communications, viz:

1. A letter from the Treasurer of the United States, Mr. Selden, transmitting his quarterly accounts for the service of the Post Office Department for the years 1837, 1838, and 1839, each year ending on the 30th June.

The letter of the Treasurer states that the balance to his credit for the use of the Post Office Department in the late deposit banks is \$23,844—of that amount, \$22,827 is in the hands of the Metropolitan and detained by the bank in satisfaction of certain alleged claims against the Post Office Department. The balance in his hands and in the hands of sub-treasurers belonging to the Department is \$12,921. Referred to the Committee on Expenditures in the Post Office Department.

2. A letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting the annual statements showing the condition of the several banks of the District of Columbia. Laid on the table.

3. A letter from the Secretary of the Navy, with a printed copy of the Naval Register for 1841, for each member.

4. A letter from the Postmaster General, accompanied by a list of the clerks employed in his Department in the year 1840, with the pay of each. There were 59 clerks—the salary of each clerk is named, but the aggregate amount paid during the year is not given.

5. A letter from the Postmaster General, accompanied by a list of regular and temporary agents employed by the Post Office Department, with the amount paid to each from July 1, 1839, to November 30, 1840.

The regular agents are Arthur Nelson, Howard Kennedy, Wm. Tanner, C. G. McHutton, James Brown, Alvin Haynes, George Plitt, at a regular salary of \$1,600 each, with allowances for transportation, subsistence, and other expenses, about equal, in the aggregate, to the regular salary.

The temporary agents were John Manon, John A. Weber, Thomas J. Boyd, Charles H. Kirk, Samuel Fry, B. H. Hathaway, Thos. H. Grenville, A. S. J. Constock, Lemuel M. Barker, J. Vassett, S. Doubleday; the nature of the special service is stated, together with the compensation given; which, in general, are small sums. Referred to the Committee on Expenditures in the Post Office Department.

6. A letter from the Governor of the Territory of Iowa, enclosing a memorial, one for post route; one for an appropriation for a penitentiary; the other for a military road from Bloomington to Iowa city, then to intersect the road from Dubuque to the Missouri line.

BILLS FROM THE SENATE.

Sundry bills heretofore received from the Senate severally received their first and second readings, and were referred, viz:

A bill to provide for the settlement of the claim of the State of Maine for the service of her militia. Referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

A bill to confirm to the State of Indiana the land selected by her for that part of the Wabash and Erie canal which lies between the mouth of Tippecanoe river and Terre Haute, and for other purposes. Referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

A bill for the relief of the Plumb Island Bridge and Turnpike Company. Referred to the Committee of Claims.

A bill for the relief of John Carter. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

A bill in addition to the act for the relief of Walter

Loomis and Abel Gay. Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

A bill for the relief of Clements, Bryan & Co. When this bill had received its second reading, two motions of reference were made.

1st. By Mr. WATKINSON, to the Committee on the Judiciary.

2d. By Mr. GIDDINGS, to the Committee of Claims.

Considerable discussion arose as to which of these committees the bill more appropriately belonged, in which Messrs. Brown, of Tennessee, Brown, of Mississippi, and Turner advocated its going to the Committee on the Judiciary, and Messrs. Giddings and Russell to the Committee of Claims.

The previous question was ordered, on motion of Mr. CUSHING, and

The question was first put on the motion first made, that is, that the bill be referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and carried in the affirmative.

And so the bill was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

The bill, from the Senate, for the relief of John Moore was twice read, and a motion was made by Mr. GIDDINGS to refer it to the Committee of Claims; which, at the request of Mr. DAWSON, he withdrew, and Mr. D. moved its reference to the Committee on the Judiciary, that it had been given as a reason for referring the bill to the Committee on the Judiciary, that that committee had nothing to do. He assured gentlemen that was a mistake. The committee had a plenty to do. There were already two or three satisfactory petitions in the committee room on the subject of a bankrupt law. There was the naturalization bill introduced by a gentleman from New York, Mr. Hand; and there was the Hoe case, which was not yet finally disposed of—these three cases were to be decided upon; they were important and difficult. There were, also, various other subjects committed to the committee; in fact, the committee already had more to do than they could get through by the 4th of March.

The bill was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CUSHING moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, to take into consideration the bill to provide for the settlement of the claim of certain American citizens for spoliation committed on their commerce prior to 3d July, 1801.

Mr. THOMPSON, of Mississippi, moved an adjournment, on which the yeas and nays were ordered; when the motion to adjourn was withdrawn.

The question was then put on Mr. Cushing's motion, and negatived.

Mr. UNDERWOOD moved that the House resolve itself into Committee of the Whole on the bill for the relief of the owners of land warrants granted for military services in the late war.

The SPEAKER said it would require two-thirds, as it was not the regular order of business; it might, however, be done by unanimous consent.

Mr. VANDERPOEL objected.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

Mr. CURTIS, from the Committee on Commerce, reported a bill authorizing and providing for the purchase of a lot of land adjoining the custom house in New York.

Which was twice read; when

Mr. CURTIS moved that it be referred to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

Mr. WISE thought it should go to the Committee on Public Expenditures.

After some remarks from Mr. WISE and Mr. CURTIS,

The reading of the bill was called for, and, having been read, it was committed to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union.

Mr. STANLEY also reported a bill for the relief of S. C. Phillips, administrator of J. Porter Felt; which was read twice and committed for to-morrow.

Mr. WELLS, from the Committee on Commerce, reported adversely on the petition of Wm. J. Stillwell.

Mr. CASEY, from the Committee on the Public Lands, reported a bill for the relief of George H. Slaughter; which was twice read and committed for to-morrow.

Mr. GARLAND, from the Committee on the Public Lands, reported the bill from the Senate to relinquish the interest of the United States to a certain tract of land in the State of Alabama, without amendment; which was committed for to-morrow.

Mr. THOMPSON, of Mississippi, from the Committee on the Public Lands, reported the bill from the Senate to establish an additional land district in the State of Alabama.

Mr. MONROE, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill to found a military asylum for the relief and support of invalid soldiers of the army of the United States; committed to the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

Mr. M. moved to print an extra number of copies of the bill and report which accompanied it; which motion lies over under the rule.

Mr. CARR, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, reported a bill for the relief of John Lybrook, and a bill for the relief of Michael Sells; which were twice read and committed for to-morrow.

Mr. ANDREWS, from the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions, reported adversely on the cases of Hannah Waldo, Abigail Reeves, Juliet Onion, Thomas Hall, Margaret Askins, Peggy Duncan, Carter B. Chandler, Abigail Allen, and Joshua Bill.

Mr. CHITTENDEN, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, reported a bill for the relief of Beriah Wright; which was twice read and committed for to-morrow.

Mr. M. made adverse reports to the cases of Samuel Gossage, Wm. A. Houston, and Simon Smith. Laid on the table.

Mr. PALEN, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, reported adversely on the cases of Richard C. Hill, Peter Sky, Josiah Hunt, James K. George, and Rufus Henry.

Also, reported a bill for the relief of Levi Colmus; which was twice read, and committed for to-morrow.

Several committees were discharged from petitions and memorials, which had been erroneously referred, and they were committed to appropriate committees.

Mr. DAVIS, of Indiana, moved an adjournment, which was carried.

And the House adjourned.

IN SENATE.

FRIDAY, JAN. 8, 1841.

PERMANENT PROSPECTIVE PRE-EMPTION SYSTEM.

The Senate to-day, resumed the consideration of the bill for establishing a permanent prospective pre-emption system.

The question pending being on the substitute for the whole bill, offered by Mr. Prentiss.

Mr. ANDERSON, of Tenn., addressed the Senate at length, in opposition to the substitute, and in favor of the original measure.

Mr. MANGUM expressed a wish to speak on the subject, but owing to indisposition, desired that it might be passed over informally for the present.

Mr. CRITTENDEN submitted the following resolutions, which he wished to have printed, and announced his intention of moving the adoption of them at a proper time.

Resolved, That the bill be recommended to the committee that reported it, with instructions to report amendments thereto, to the following effect:

1st. To distribute the proceeds of the sales of the public lands among the several States of the Union, in just and equitable proportions.

2d. To grant to actual bona fide settlers on the public lands the right of pre-emption of any quantity thereof not exceeding one-half section, or 320 acres, including the place of settlement, at the minimum price of \$1 25 per acre, with such provisions as shall limit this right of settlement and pre-emption to actual bona fide settlers, whose estate at the time of settlement shall not exceed the value of \$1,000, and furthermore, with such provisions as shall effectually exclude the wealthier speculators from all benefit under this law, and shall prevent them from interfering with, or participating in, the privilege and right of settlement and pre-emption, which are hereby granted and intended for the sole advantage of the needy and honest settlers and cultivators of the soil.

Mr. LINN gave notice that when the consideration of these resolutions came up, he would move to amend, by a proposition to devote the whole proceeds of the sales of the public lands to strengthening the national defenses. He hoped both his proposition, and that of the Senator from Kentucky, would be voted down; but he was determined to append such a measure to every scheme for distributing the proceeds of the land sales.

Mr. BENTON next rose, and with an extraordinary intemperance of language and gesture, denounced the resolutions of Mr. Crittenden as proposing, in effect,

to establish a public debt—to create a new tariff—to add to the expenditures—and to put money in the bank. After raving and reciting upon these topics in the most approved demagogic style, for a quarter of an hour, he charged Mr. CRITTENDEN with having opened up the whole policy of the coming Administration; and he affectingly bowed his thanks to Mr. C. for having done so.

Mr. CRITTENDEN made a few remarks in reply, and his chaste and parliamentary deportment presented as fine a contrast to the unmanly and noisy vehemence of the Missouri Senator, as did his sound views and just sentiments to that person's idle and empty declamation. He told the Missouri Senator that he was welcome to all the advantages derivable from his, Mr. C's, public declarations on these or any other subjects.

He thought of himself so humbly that he was not particularly anxious to withhold his opinions. On the contrary, he was habitually prompt—perhaps too prompt—to declare them as they were. Such as they were, he was ready to maintain; and in regard to those he had expressed in these resolutions, he was prepared to put them before the country, even without argument. He did not see why the Senator from Missouri should tender him thanks for a declaration of principles and purposes which the Senate and the public knew he always had maintained.

Mr. CRITTENDEN added that, as the member was in the vein of giving thanks, he would present a new claim to his gratitude. He would not only go for a distribution of the proceeds of the land sales among the States, but he would go for laying taxes on luxuries, on wines and silks, to raise a revenue to meet the actual wants of the Government, under an economical administration.

The distinguished Kentucky Senator then commented, with all his inimitable power of sarcasm and ridicule, on the spouting of Mr. Benton about economy. It was, indeed, a good thing to bear persons who have themselves, for twelve long years of misrule, wasted the substance of the Treasury by their unbounded prodigality—it was notable to hear them, now, in extremis, and when they are about to bequeath to General Harrison impoverished coffers, leaving to us recommendations of the strictest economy.

Mr. CALHOUN rose, and said, that as the whole public land policy would be opened up by the discussion proposed, he would, at the same time, urge the consideration of his project to cede the public lands to the States in which they lie, on certain conditions.

The further consideration of the subject was then postponed to Monday next.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, JAN. 8, 1841.

At the usual hour the House was called to order.

After prayer by Rev. Mr. Cookman, and reading of journal,

Mr. THOMPSON rose, and made a correction of the journal.

Mr. EVERETT then offered the following resolution:

That the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions be instructed to inquire into the expediency of continuing for the term of five years the pensions allowed under the act granting half-pay of pensions to widows, passed July 7, 1838.

Mr. E. moved to suspend the rules for the purpose of receiving the resolution.

After some conversation by Messrs. Peck, Taliaferro, and Galbraith, relative to the resolution and inquiring whether the committee had not already reported a bill to this effect, the question on the motion was taken by yeas and nays, and resulted as follows: Yeas 89, nays 53.

Not being two-thirds, the rules were not suspended. Reports from committees were then in order.

From the Committee on Public Lands: Mr. CASEY reported the Senate bill No. 23, which, on motion of Mr. C. was referred to the Committee of the Whole, and made the order of the day for to-morrow.

From the Committee on Claims: Mr. WILLIAMS, of New Hampshire, reported a bill which was laid on the table.

Mr. CROSS, of Arkansas, wished to inquire whether there had been any thing done by the Committee on the Judiciary, in relation to referring certain cases of court jurisdiction of the District Court of the U. S. to the State of Arkansas.

Mr. SERGEANT answered.

From the Committee on Invalid Pensions: Mr. CALVARY MORRIS reported bills for the relief of John E. Wright and others; referred to the Committee of the Whole, and made the order of the day for to-morrow, and ordered to be printed.

SELECT COMMITTEES.

Mr. UNDERWOOD, from the Select Committee to which was referred the bill and report, made at last session of Congress, with regard to STEAM BOAT DISASTERS, submitted the following report and resolution:

The Select Committee to whom were referred the petitions of John Coates, and others, relating to steam boat disasters and the means of their prevention, and likewise the report and bills submitted to the House at the last session by the Select Committee to whom the petition of Samuel Raub relative to his self-safety valves was referred;

Report that they have adopted the report and bills submitted by the Select Committee during the last session, and herewith present the same, and recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

Resolved, That the bills herewith presented shall be considered on the — day of —, and made the special order on that and each succeeding day until disposed of.

Mr. CUSHING said that at the close of the last session he sent home copies of this bill and report of that committee. And the proposition to purchase Raub's self-safety valve produced considerable sensation among the mechanics. They had meetings for the purpose of preparing a representation on that subject, who hoped to submit the statements to the committee before their report. He desired that the consideration of this bill be postponed—that those gentlemen might be here in order to represent their own case, and that the blank be filled to some time affording them this opportunity.

Mr. UNDERWOOD said that the committee, during the last session, made their report with a view to elicit from every part of the country objections that might exist to the plan they submitted. More than one-third of the session had now passed away, and he deemed it necessary that some action should be had immediately on this subject, in order to prevent the many thrilling, steamboat accidents. He reported the resolution, blank in its time, that the House might fill it up—appointing a proper time. He was very glad that the gentleman from Massachusetts had made these remarks. Had no objections that he should name the day—if any reasonable time. He (several members concurring) moved that it be made the special order of the day on the 25th January inst.

The motion to refer the bill to the Committee of the Whole, and print, was then put and carried.

The question to make it the special order on the 25th January, was called—

Mr. JONES objected to making it the special order of the day; at this time, as there were important financial matters coming up soon; the consideration of which might be postponed by this special order; and in such cases of special order, often much time was occupied. He hoped that, at this time, it might not be the special order.

After some further conversation, by Messrs. Underwood and Jones, the question of making it the special order, on the 25th January, was carried: affirmative, 99—negative, 44.

Petitions were presented by Messrs. Grinnell, and Mallory, of Va., and Mr. Parmenter. The resolution

in regard to the Finances, offered by Mr. BARNARD, and laid over from Monday, 4th inst., coming up.

Mr. BARNARD proposed to postpone the consideration until Tuesday next, which was agreed to.

Mr. CRABBE offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire and report whether it be legal for the justices of the Supreme Court of the United States to reside out of the limits of the circuit to which they are respectively assigned, and if it is legal so to reside, such residence, which was carried.

Mr. CURTIS, of New York, from the Committee on Commerce, reported a bill to grant a register to the schooner Amistead, and moved a suspension of the rules for the passage of the bill.

Mr. PICKENS objected to it.

The motion on the third reading and passage of the bill was carried.

Messrs. C. H. WILLIAMS and TOLAND presented petitions.

Mr. MONTGOMERY offered a resolution directing the Secretary of the Treasury to communicate to the House the amount of public lands belonging to the United States, when purchased, and under whose administration, &c.

Mr. GRAVES made some remarks on the resolution.

The resolution was laid over one day under the rules.

Mr. CALVARY MORRIS offered a resolution: that the Committee on the Judiciary be instructed to inquire into the expediency of abolishing imprisonment for debt in the District of Columbia. Laid over under the rules.

Mr. TURNEY offered a bill, to which objection being made, it was withdrawn.

Mr. WINTEROP offered a resolution: that the Committee on Commerce be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making provision for the payment of the arrears of salaries of the custom-house officers in Boston, which have been made in New York and Philadelphia; which was carried.

Mr. SALTONSTALL offered the following resolution relative to the Navy Pension Fund:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Navy be directed to communicate to this House what amount of money was received by the United States, under the act of June 26, 1812, and the act of February 13, 1813, providing that two per cent. of the net amount of the prize money arising from captures made by private armed vessels of the United States, be used as a pension fund in said act.

Also, to report whether the same or any and what part thereof was invested, and if so, in what stocks or securities, and at what prices the said investments, and also, the sales thereof were made.

And also, to report when the said pension fund became exhausted, and how much of the same, or the proceeds arising therefrom, were paid to persons other than those for whose use the said fund was pledged by the said act and under and by virtue of subsequent acts.

Mr. ADAMS made some remarks on the subject, and the resolution was then carried.

Mr. WADDY THOMPSON offered the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Navy be requested to communicate to this House the proceedings of the Naval Courts Martial for the trial of Commodore Joseph Smoot, and Lieuts. Joseph Stalling and J. C. Sharpe.

Mr. GONERNEUR KEMBLE offered the following amendment:

Also, copies of the Government orders in the case of Lieuts. Sharpe and Stallings, submitting the reasons for confirming the decision of the Court Martial in the one case, and modifying it in the other.

After some remarks by Mr. THOMPSON, the resolution and amendment were carried.

Mr. STANLEY moved the printing of a bill of which he had previously given notice, providing for the payment of the fourth instalment to the States, under the act of June, 1826. The motion was carried.

Mr. GOODE, of Ohio, presented a petition for the relief of John J. Rhodes and others.

A bill relating, in a special case, the law prohibiting the granting patents to Clerks in the Patent Office, came up for its final passage—

Mr. BRIGGS objected to it, but finally withdrew.

After some debate, by Messrs. Hopkins, Wm. Adams, and Smith, of Maine, it was lost.

Mr. TURNEY moved to adjourn—this being the 8th of January.

Mr. STANLEY said that the 8th of January was a very good day to do something for widows and orphans. He called for the yeas and nays, which were taken: Yeas, 19—nays, 160; so the motion was lost.

Mr. STANLEY congratulated the House, that the days of glorification had gone by. He moved that the House now go into Committee of the Whole for the consideration of Private bills, which was carried.

At the call of the SPEAKER, Mr. BRIGGS took the Chair.

Several private bills were disposed of.

And, on motion of Mr. SALTONSTALL, the House adjourned at half-past three o'clock.

FLORIDA NEWS.

Office of the News, St. Augustine, Jan. 1, 1840.

Col. Harney passed through the Everglades, coming out at Cape Sable. He surprised a camp of 40 Indians, hung ten of the warriors, and reserved one to take him to San James' camp. Chekika, who headed the party, was among the number. The number, 17, was killed, and the remainder fled. The Indians, in attempting to dislodge 7 Indians from an island, lost one man, had six wounded, and the only one uninjured brought him off. At a time when the commanding General is tempering with justice and mercy, it is a bright relief to the eye upon a man who knows his duty to the country and is not afraid to perform it.

Last night the market was illuminated, cannons fired, and music employed to add their grateful sounds to the admiration which this affair has produced.

Last evening, we learn the killing of Lt. Sherwood, 7th Infantry, a wife of an officer, and two privates near Micapony. Also, a teamster at Pilatka.

Col. Harney, we are told, went in at the Miami and came out near Cape Sable. If so, he must have gone where no white man has proceeded, and discovered a singular and important water communication across the South of the Peninsula.

We gave the gallant Colonel our good wishes when he went down, and are rejoiced to see them fulfilled. The party returned round the coast, leaving Captain Davidson, who is, we are sorry to say, dangerously ill, at Indian Key. Another expedition is preparing. Official reports may be expected to-morrow by the Wm. Gaston.

THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXTRACT OF A LETTER FROM AN OFFICER OF THE ARMY, RECEIVED IN THIS CITY CONTAINING SOME FURTHER DETAILS OF INTELLIGENCE FROM FLORIDA.

From 60 to 70 Indian Warriors have come in to the different Posts, with their rifles, which they have surrendered, thus manifesting a willingness on their part to close the war. This fact, in connection with the report brought by those who have surrendered, that many of their brethren are about to follow their example, affords a strong ground of hope that the war may be soon terminated.

At Fort Fanning, 11 Warriors came in on Christmas day. At Tampa Bay, 15 Warriors came in on the same day. Seven came to Fort King, in quest of Gen. Armstrong. They afterwards left that Post, to seek him at Cedar Key. At Cedar Key, 17 Warriors surrendered themselves. Several others (number not known) came in at No. 4, a Post between Cedar Key and Fort Fanning. Among those that have surrendered, there are but two or three Micapukies,